

PETER WENDOVER BEDFORD

1836-1892

President of the American Pharmaceutical Association 1881-1882



R. W. Keating.

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The American Pharmaceutical Association has heretofore held no meeting in Buffalo; however, the session of 1882 was convened at Niagara Falls. Hiram E. Griffith, a native of this interesting and important section of New York State, was local secretary; he evidenced his attachment for this locality in his address of welcome and seemed deeply concerned in having the visitors go away with some love like that in his own heart for "this, the grandest river that rolls its waters to the sea;" he impressed his hearers with the grandness of the geology and the variety of plants that grow about Niagara. That Mr. Griffith did not altogether rely on nature's provision is recorded in the expression of thanks for the efficient local secretary, who very early in business life opened a pharmacy at Niagara Falls, which he conducted at the same locality until his death, January 12, 1889.

Peter Wendover Bedford was the 29th (not 30th) president of the American Pharmaceutical Association, Henry Taylor Kiersted, of New York, having held the office for two years, 1860-1862, the only 2-year record of incumbency in that office among the long list of presidents. The death of the latter was announced at the Niagara Falls meeting; Charles A. Heinitsh was elected successor to President Bedford. We are thus brought in touch with those who were active in early American pharmacy, for the Heinitsh Pharmacy* at Lancaster, Pa., is still owned by the same family and continues to serve the public; those spoken of participated in the organization of colleges of pharmacy, of state associations, and in the establishment of pharmaceutical publications.

Instead of writing at length of the activities of Ex-President Bedford, the readers are referred to the sketch on p. 18 of the 41st volume of the Proceedings, A. Ph. A., and to the action of the Association, reported on p. 66 of Volume 42, when the members were advised relative to the seriousness of his illness, which terminated in death, at the Profile House, White Mountains, N. H., July 20, 1892. The half-tone plate for the frontispiece was made from a photograph of about the time when this distinguished pharmacist was president; on the back of this photo-

* Established in 1780; see JOURNAL A. PH. A., August 22, p. 741.

graph is the signature which has been reproduced and it is stamped: "P. W. Bedford, pharmacist, 769 Sixth Avenue, New York." The titles of the contributed articles to the Association fill nearly a column in the Index; however his writings for other pharmaceutical publications were far greater in number.

Peter Wendover Bedford was born August 1, 1836, at Johnsville, N. Y. His first apprenticeship in pharmacy was served with William Fisher in Bleeker St., New York City; thereafter with George W. Delavergne, and then with Ewen McIntyre at 874 Broadway. After graduating from the New York College of Pharmacy he opened up the pharmacy heretofore mentioned. In 1870, he entered the wholesale drug house of Tarrant & Co., and, in 1872, he became connected with Lazell, Marsh & Gardner, until 1883.

In 1860, Mr. Bedford was elected secretary of his *alma mater* and later, in 1870, he became trustee of the College; in 1873, he was elected professor of pharmacy and, on account of impaired health, resigned in 1891. He was one of the organizers of New York State Pharmaceutical Association; from 1884 to the time of his demise he was a member of the New York Board of Pharmacy.

He joined the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1859, at the age of twenty-three. Among other offices held by him at different periods are the following: Local Secretary for the meeting held in New York in 1867; Recording Secretary, 1862-1863; Corresponding Secretary, 1860-'62 and 1863-'66; chairman of the Section on Pharmaceutical Legislation, 1888-'89; chairman of the Section on Education and Legislation, 1889-1890.

In 1882, Professor Bedford assumed the editorial responsibility of *Martin's Chemists' and Druggists' Bulletin*, which passed under his entire control in the year following, when the name of the *Bulletin* was changed to *The Pharmaceutical Record*, of which well and favorably known publication he was the editor at the time of his death.

E. G. E.



Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain Headquarters—See pp. 396 and 503, Journal A. Ph. A. for 1924.